

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1962

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1962

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone No.:
Kidderminster 2237.

LAND OAK HOUSE,
KIDDERMINSTER.

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. E. HOBSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. HINGLEY, J.P.

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT.

“ H. DOOLITTLE,
“ W. H. GARDINER, LT. COL.
“ G. R. GILLEY.
“ J. T. HARDY
“ H. E. HICKTON.
“ G. LEE.
“ J. PAGE.
“ J. POWICK.
“ E. SMITH.
“ S. SPENCER.
“ M. W. STAITE.
“ C. E. TALBOT.
“ J. WARDLE, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

Assistant: C. G. KNOTT.

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:
Mrs. I. M. MANN

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer: E. LEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year
1962.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1962	...	...	...	...	...	11,990
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1962						4,113
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£134,184
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	...	...	£540

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics

Births			1962	1961
	Males	Females	Total	Total
<hr/>				
(a) Live Births: Legitimate ...	97	109	206	191
Illegitimate ...	3	3	6	11
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	...	...	17.7	16.6
Birth rate for England and Wales		...	18.0	17.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births ...	...	...	2.8	—
<hr/>				
(b) Still Births: Legitimate	1	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	...	...	.08	—
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales			18.1	19.1
<hr/>				
(c) Total Live and Still Births	101	112	213	203
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Deaths

	Males	Females	Total	Total
(a) Number registered for District	56	59	115	131
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...			9.5	10.8
Death rate for England and Wales ...			11.9	12.0
<hr/>				
(b) Maternal Mortality ...	0	0	0	0
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still Births ...			0	0
Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales ...			.35	.33
<hr/>				
(c) Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age) ...	4	6	10	4
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age: All Infants per 1,000 live births ...			47.2	19.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			48.5	20.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			0.	0.
<hr/>				
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks ...	3	5	8	3
Neo-natal mortality rate (first 4 weeks) ...			37.6	14.7
Neo-natal rate for England and Wales			15.1	15.5
<hr/>				
(e) Early Neo-natal Mortality (under 1 week) ...	1	5	6	—
Early Neo-natal mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)			28.6	—
<hr/>				
(f) Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births ...)			32.9	
<hr/>				
(g) Infant mortality rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births ...			20.7	21.4

Causes of Death					M.	F.
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	—	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	5	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms				2	6
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	3
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	10	7
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	15	8
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	—	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	2	7
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	5	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	5
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	2	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	2	8
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	...	2	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	1
	All causes	...	...	...	56	59

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Mrs. I. M. Mann as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Disease an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council. During the year a system of wireless control was instituted based at the new operational headquarters at the County Medical Officer of Health officers at Love's Grove, Worcester; telephone 21611/5.

The ambulance station at Kidderminster has been augmented and now operates on a fully manned twenty-four hour basis.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area—at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

A certain proportion of patients are admitted to hospitals in Birmingham for more special treatment.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment when necessary. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6.30 p.m., Wednesday at 10.0 a.m., and Thursday at 2.0 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

Until the 1st October, when the North West Worcestershire Water Board came into operation, water in the Rural District was supplied by:—

- (1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.
- (4) The East Worcestershire Water Board.
- (5) The South Staffordshire Water Works Company.
- (6) Kidderminster Corporation.

The North West Worcestershire Water Board is the result of several years difficult negotiations between the Ministry and constituent local authorities, namely:—

Kidderminster Borough Council.
Bewdley Borough Council.
Kidderminster Rural District Council.
Tenbury Rural District Council.
Droitwich Rural District Council.
Martley Rural District Council.
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

As the Council remain responsible through their Public Health Department for the safety of the water, samples will continue as before. Copies of the reports will be sent to the Water Board.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 30 samples of water from the six main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

Water Supplies to Houses in the Rural District.

Parish	From Public Mains, Number of premises	From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, etc. Number of Premises.	Total
Wolverley	1,375	4	1,379
Upper Arley ...	296	15	311
Ribbesford	28	4	32
Churchill & Blakedown	475	2	477
Rock	647	20	667
Broome	96	12	108
Stone	175	20	195
Rushock	54	2	56
Kidderminster Foreign	350	20	370
Chaddesley Corbett ...	503	15	518
Totals	3,999	114	4,113

Percentage of houses connected to Public Mains=97.2%

Drainage and Sewerage.

Chaddesley Corbett.

Further progress has been made during the year on the connection of properties to the new sewer. By the end of the year 168 properties had been connected out of a total of 200. Of those properties remaining unconnected, the majority are those involved in the scheme to modernise this rather picturesque black and white village without destroying its character.

Callow Hill, Rock.

The provision of an adequate sewerage scheme for this area is even more urgent in view of the continuing modernisation of properties in this area and especially the installation of modern sanitation. It is again recommended that action be taken in the very near future.

Summary of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal to Permanent Houses.

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	No. of Houses with:	
		Pails	Septic Tanks, etc.
Wolverley	1,084	6	145
Upper Arley ...	39	28	114
Ribbesford ...	—	—	32
Churchill & Blaked'n	300	6	177
Rock	73	54	594
Broome ... ..	... 2	—	106
Stone	76	8	119
Rushock	10	6	46
Kidderm'ster Foreign	20	16	250
Chaddesley Corbett	299	21	275
Totals	1,903	145	1,858

River Pollution.

River Stour and Canal.

The pollution of the rivers and streams in the area still remains a serious problem but it is anticipated that action which will be taken under The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, which was enacted during the year (to come into force during 1963) will bring about a steady improvement in the future.

HOUSING.

(a) **Action under Housing Act during the year.**

Number of houses represented for Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Houses represented for Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made (whole houses)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made (part of a building)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders changed to Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Undertakings not to use house accepted	...	...	...	...	...	1
Undertakings to repair house accepted	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses actually demolished during year	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	...	11

(b) **Public Health Act.**

Houses in which defects were remedied:						
After informal action by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	181
After formal action by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	70
Intimation letters sent	...	...	...	...	16
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936. Part IV—OVERCROWDING.

No case of serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Our efforts to persuade all parents to bring their children for immunisation continued as before. There has been some improvement in their response.

A further 167 children under five years of age and 21 children from five to fifteen years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 222 were given booster doses.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 802 persons were vaccinated and 1,236 were re-vaccinated.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1962 are set out in the following table:—

AGE IN YEARS										
Disease	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over	Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	1	—	2	—	—	8	13	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	2	1	—	3	—	—	14	20	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Three new cases were notified during the year.

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

There are only two factories in the district, a steel works and a glass house maker. Conditions of employment are very satisfactory and the owners co-operate to the full with your Health Department.

Part 1 of the Act.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities ...	2	10

No defects were found during the year.

Part VIII of the Act. Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Outworkers in August List	Section 110 No. of cases of default in sending Lists	No. of prosecutions
Making wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil

There is only one person employed on outwork, viz., glove knitting in her own home and conditions are ideal.

Conclusion.

The existing sanitary services in the area have proved satisfactory.

The proposed modernisation and extension of Blakedown Sewage Works is now becoming really urgent.

It is with some pleasure that I draw attention to the very considerable improvement in the general standard of housing and sanitation in the Council's area, which has resulted from the erection of a considerable number of new houses by the Council and private individuals and the modernisation of older properties by their owners and occupiers.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1962

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1962

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

Three slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	170	—	18	890	480
Number inspected ...	164	—	18	850	460
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS: Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	21	Nil	Nil	62	32
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	12.8	Nil	Nil	7.2	6.9
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	1.2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.1

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	312 lbs.
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	126 lbs.
Injury ...	...	...	...	...	80 lbs.
Total					518 lbs.

Milk.

The premises used for this trade which come under the jurisdiction of the Council have given no cause for complaint.

Other Foods.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises:—

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions ...	47	—	197
Cafes	7	—	60
Hotels and other licensed premises	33	—	105
Works canteens ...	... 1	—	7
Dairies	21	—	84
Ice Cream Manufac- turers	1	1	16
Ice Cream Retailers	36	36	87

There has been no necessity to bring to the notice of food traders any serious infringements of regulations. They have a good sense of their responsibilities to the general public and are willing to adopt any reasonable suggestion made by the Health Department. The storage of food in deep freeze has been very successfully carried out.

There are two race meetings at Chaddesley Corbett each year, the catering arrangements for which are in the hands of reputable firms of caterers. Considering that these meetings are for one day only, standards of hygiene have been very good.

Personal contact has again been maintained with all persons handling food in the district.

Ice Cream.

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream the vast majority of ice cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of unexpired Licences in force	10
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Bakehouses.

Number on register December, 1962	2
Inspections	24

Contraventions Remedied:

Limewashing	2
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PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service is carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one 3-ton Bedford Eagle lorry with a crew of three, and a Contractor's lorry manned by two men.

The S.D. Freighter covers the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gives a fortnightly service to these built-up areas. The Bedford deals with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gives a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Contractor.

It is the Council's firm intention to considerably improve this system during 1963 in order to provide more frequent collections throughout the district.

Tipping is carried out at the tip at Caunsall and methods of controlled tipping have been applied throughout the year.

The refuse has been tipped in fingers which have been regularly covered with soil and ashes.

The refuse is sprayed with insecticide before covering and the nuisance from flies was kept to an absolute minimum.

A regular supply of soil for covering purposes has been assured for future use.

The tip is surrounded with trees and bushes of several types and every endeavour has been made to retain as many as possible as they act as a very efficient screen.

As no fires have occurred up to the present there has been no nuisance from smoke.

The following are details of the number of loads dealt with:

Tipped at Caunsall ...	...	...	1841 loads
Tipped at Rock ...	...	...	141 loads
			<hr/> 1982 loads <hr/>

Night Soil Collection.

Due to the provision of a sewer in the village of Chaddesley Corbett, the night soil collection system came to an end at the beginning of the year.

This system has been in use for approximately forty years and throughout that time has proved a very useful service under difficult circumstances.

The Contractor, his staff and the occupiers of the houses in the village are to be congratulated on the way in which they have co-operated in this very necessary and often unpleasant task.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The Kidderminster Rural District is such that many thousands of holiday makers spend considerable periods in caravans throughout the district. Up to the moment thirty sites comprising 562 caravans are licensed and facilities have been provided in accordance with the Model Standards.

The work involved has necessitated many hundreds of visits and it is pleasing to be able to record that owners and occupiers of sites have faced up to their responsibility and shown every co-operation.

A close touch has been maintained with the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade and their suggestions with regard to fire fighting arrangements have been adopted.

The caravan dwellers themselves are almost without exception a good type who take pride in the maintenance of their caravans and sites. In several instances Sites Committees have been set up and these Committees have maintained the closest contact with the Council and its officials.

There still remain a number of sites which are still in a state of flux with regard to the Town and Country Planning Acts, but it is expected that the majority of these will be settled during 1963 by the Town Planning authorities.

Water Supply.

The Rural District is very well supplied with water from several sources. Bacteriological samples are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows:—

Public Supplies Mains.	Fit.	Unfit.	Total.
Cookley Borehole	8	—	8
Elan Valley	6	—	6
Stourbridge Water Board	4	—	4
South Staffs. Water Board	8	—	8
East Worcs. Water Board	2	—	2
Kidderminster Corporation	2	—	2
	<hr/> 30	<hr/> —	<hr/> 30

Private Supplies.

Wells and Springs	5	5	10
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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, 1962

Particulars of visits and inspections are as follows:

Housing Inspection (Public Health & Housing Acts)	801
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	760
Dairies	84
Fried Fish Premises	2
Infectious Diseases	10
Overcrowding	471
Premises where animals are kept	107
Schools	14
Water Courses	121
Water Supply	192
Workshops	6
Provision of Dustbins	181
Miscellaneous	901
Refuse Collection	1999

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	...	21
Verminous houses dealt with	... ..	3

Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C.s cleansed by tenants	...	11
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc.		141

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	...	171
Defective drains repaired	... ..	72
New drains provided	... ..	189
Sinks provided	... ..	97
Cesspools abolished	... ..	78

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected	... ..	62
Foul and obstructed W.C.s cleansed	... ..	71
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	...	80
Water Closets repaired	... ..	62
Defective water supply to W.C.s remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	...	481
Conversions:		
Conversions of privies to W.C.s	... ..	2
Conversions of pail closets to W.C.s	98

Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to pail closets	16
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Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	...	181
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants		29

Various.

Nuisance from improper keeping of animals	...	138
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RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses	424
Number of other infestations dealt with	21
Number of complaints received	69

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING.

A further 61 houses were erected during the year, making a total of 816 since the war. A further 35 are in course of erection.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the following figures are of interest:—

Number of Premises Licensed for storage:

Private	...	...	...	...	...	4
Business	...	...	...	...	...	44
For Re-sale	...	...	...	...	...	11
						—
Total						59
						—

Total fees received £34 15s. 0d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licencee to any serious infringement of the Acts.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year?

The work shown in the foregoing report could only have been successfully carried out with the loyal support of Mr. Knott, Public Health Assistant, Mrs. I. M. Mann, Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk, and Mr. E. Lee, Rats and Mice Destruction Officer. I herewith pay tribute to their services.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. Chapman, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector.

